

Significant Changes

Important: If a donor has attempted to donate prior to March 21, 2005 and was deferred under the old guidelines, but is now eligible under the new guidelines, **he or she must call Donor Suitability at 1-800-665-4550 to begin the reinstatement process.** A donor **MUST** call Donor Suitability prior to attending a blood drive or visiting a blood donor center to begin donating again. The reinstatement process may take several weeks to several months.

Donation restriction changes for tattoos

- Beginning March 21, 2005, any person who has been tattooed in a state-licensed facility will be able to donate.

Donation restriction changes for travel

- The information sheet and criteria relating to variant Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (vCJD), the human form of Mad Cow Disease, were changed to reflect the FDA's most current thinking on geographic areas where there is a potential risk of Mad Cow disease. **Therefore, those who were previously deferred may be eligible to donate once again.**
- Beginning on March 21, 2005, you may be able to donate blood again if your total stay has been less than:
 - 5 years** (was 6 months) in Europe and eastern Europe since Jan. 1, 1980, OR
 - 3 months** in the United Kingdom from Jan. 1, 1980 through **Dec. 31, 1996** OR
 - 6 months** as a member of the **U.S. military**, on or associated with a military base in:
 - Belgium, the Netherlands (Holland) or Germany – from 1980 through 1990
 - Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Italy or Greece – from 1980 through 1996.

Example of simplified questions

Beginning March 21, 2005, the questions will be simpler and easy to understand. The following is an example of simplifying questions:

- Before, question 17 read:** In the past 3 years, have you lived outside the US, except Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, or Western Europe, including the British Isles? **And question 18 read:** In the past 12 months, have you traveled outside the US, except Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, or Western Europe, including the British Isles?
- After, 17 and 18 were combined into one simple question:** In the past three years, have you been outside the United States or Canada?

Some of the health-related criteria changes

- Heart conditions – donors can give blood if:**
 - The condition was diagnosed more than 6 months ago, evaluated and treated.
 - There have been no symptoms for the past 6 months.
 - There have been no restrictions on routine activities for the past 6 months.
 - There have been no cardiac surgery/procedures during the past 6 months.
- Corneal transplant**
 - A person can donate as long as his or her corneal transplant was more than 12 months ago.
- Cancer**
 - You may donate if the cancer was treated with surgery, radiation or chemotherapy, and it has been at least five years since treatment was completed with no cancer recurrence. If you had leukemia or lymphoma, including Hodgkin's Disease and mycosis fungoids, you are not eligible to donate. Some low-risk cancers, including squamous or basal cell cancers of the skin, do not require a five-year waiting period.